

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-71 (Canceled).

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a latent image carrier that is rotatable and carries a latent image;

a cleaning blade that cleans toner remaining on a cleaning area on the latent image carrier;

a lubricant;

a lubricant applying brush roller that scrapes off the lubricant and applies ~~scraped~~ scraped lubricant to the latent image carrier; and

a lubricant applying blade arranged on a downstream side of an applying apparatus of the cleaning blade with respect to direction of rotation of the latent image carrier, and that applies a lubricant on the latent image carrier,

wherein a lubricant applying area overlaps the cleaning area of the cleaning blade, and

wherein a width of the lubricant is less than a width of the brush roller and the width of the brush roller is less than a width of the lubricant applying blade in contact with the latent image carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the cleaning area and the lubricant applying area have a substantially equal size on the latent image carrier.

Claims 74-77 (Canceled).

Claim 78 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein

widths of a charged portion and a lubricant applied on the latent image carrier in a longitudinal direction have a relation:

charge width < width of lubricant applied.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the latent image carrier has a frictional coefficient of 0.4 or less.

Claim 80 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the cleaning blade includes a side seal that prevents toner scattering, and the lubricant applying area can be adjusted based on a position of the side seal.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is such that a shape factor indicating a degree of sphericity of a toner shape is in a range from 100 to 180, and a shape factor indicating a degree of irregularities of the toner shape is in a range from 100 to 180.

Claim 82 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein a volume-average particle size ( $D_v$ ) of the toner is in a range from 3 to 8 micrometers, and a degree of dispersion of the toner defined by a ratio ( $D_v/D_n$ ) between the volume-average particle size ( $D_v$ ) and a number-average particle size ( $D_n$ ) is in a range from 1.00 to 1.40.

Claim 83 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein a ratio ( $r_2/r_1$ ) between a minor axis ( $r_2$ ) and a major axis of the toner ( $r_1$ ) is in a range from 0.5 to 1.0, a ratio ( $r_3/r_2$ ) between a thickness of the toner ( $r_3$ ) and the minor axis of the toner ( $r_2$ ) is in a range from 0.7 to 1.0, and  $r_1 \geq r_2 \geq r_3$ .

Claim 84 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is obtained by allowing a toner material solution to undergo either one of or both of a crosslinking reaction and an elongation reaction in an aqueous medium, the toner material solution being obtained by dissolving or dispersing at least a polymer having a portion enabling reaction with a compound that contains an active hydrogen group, and a release agent in an organic solvent.

Claim 85 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, further comprising:

a process cartridge that integrally supports the latent image carrier and at least one of a lubricant applying device which applies the lubricant to the latent image carrier, a charging device, a developing device, and a cleaning device, the process cartridge being mounted detachably from the image forming apparatus.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge coupled to an image forming apparatus, the process cartridge comprising:

an image carrier on which a latent image is formed; and

a process unit that includes at least one of:

a cleaning device that cleans a surface of the image carrier;

a lubricant applying brush roller that scrapes off the lubricant and applies  
scraped lubricant to the latent image carrier; and

a lubricant applying device arranged on a downstream side of the cleaning  
device with respect to a direction of rotation of the image carrier, and that applies [[a]]  
the lubricant to a lubricant applying area on the image carrier,

wherein a cleaning area cleaned by the cleaning device and the lubricant  
applying area overlap, [[and]]

wherein the process cartridge integrally supports the image carrier and the  
process unit, and is detachable from the image forming apparatus, and

wherein a width of the lubricant is less than a width of the brush roller and the  
width of the brush roller is less than a width of a lubricant applying blade in contact  
with the latent image carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof in the image forming  
apparatus.

Claim 87 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim  
72, wherein the lubricant applying blade applies the lubricant to a surface of an intermediate  
transfer belt.

Claim 88 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim  
72, wherein the lubricant includes zinc stearate.